



The Year of H.O.P.E.

HEALING. OUTREACH. PRAISE & WORSHIP. EMPOWERMENT

“EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR REACHING THE LOST”

Introduction:

Luke 15: 1-10

Lost Defined: The term lost refers to those who are not Christians, to those who are outside of the ark of God but whom God desires to come home. After we are changed or transformed, we are not thrust into a world to witness to the lost without being equipped. Jesus said in St. John 16:7, It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you.

1. The first thing needed for reaching the lost is the **Holy Spirit**

God has given us a Comforter to lead us, guide us, and instruct us. The Comforter reveals things to us, and revelation is the perspective of God about a situation on a level we understand where our heart can embrace it, it is assimilated into our thoughts and applied to our decision making.

2. The second thing needed for reaching the lost is **Compassion**

Why did the “lost” seek Jesus rather than run from him? The lost have never flocked to hear those who were condescending or condemning, and they never will listen to us with that attitude.

3. The third thing needed for reaching the lost is **Effort**

In these parables, the shepherd did not wait for the lost sheep to wander home, and the woman did not wait for the lost coin to just turn up. In our Christian lives and in the church it sometimes seems that we do the opposite. We tend to wait for the lost to come to us. We want people to be saved, but we have not gone out searching for the lost with great effort.

4. The fourth thing needed to reach the lost is **Persistence**

5. The fifth thing needed to reach the lost is **Your Testimony**

Tell your story, share your testimony. **Revelation 12:11**, And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

In both parables in Luke chapter 15, Jesus notes specifically that the person continued seeking after the lost item until it was found. In other words, Jesus seems to be pointing out that persistence was necessary to meet success. Lost sheep among spacious fields and hills, and lost coins in the dirt floor of a Jewish home would not have been easily or quickly found. It's not usually the case that our first efforts meet success. Sometimes

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it takes years of persistence, but don't be discouraged or give up. If a sheep or coin was valuable enough to persistently search for, then people who are spiritually lost are too valuable to give up on. Jesus pointed out that the one thing that matters most to God is the lost. They matter so much to God that when the lost are found, even one of them, all heaven rejoices! If lost people matter this much to God, shouldn't they matter this much to us? **1 John 4:15**

I cannot claim to love God and don't love people. Even when other people's personalities wear you out, they should never know it. When you say that you are a Christian there is power in identification. We not only want the world to recognize that we are Jesus' disciples by the love we have one for another, but we want to invite them to experience that same love we have one for another. **1 John 4:15-17**

You cannot have boldness to witness to others if you don't walk in love. I cannot claim to dwell in God and don't love folks. When you are reaching out to people you never know who has a shared experience. Talk to people meet them right where they are, tell them "don't ever let anything somebody does to them change their concept of themselves, let it change your concept of them". **Romans 8:11**

You have the Holy Spirit abiding in your mortal body, and if you realize that you have the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead, that makes you anointed to make a difference in the lives of others. You might be shy, but you possess the boldness, and you have the faith, now draw from it. **John 1:6-8**

We are Ambassadors. An Ambassador does not make the laws, an Ambassador orchestrates and negotiates between two parties. We don't have the power to save, nor have we been called to save, but we can negotiate on behalf of someone desiring to be saved. Christians stand in the gap between darkness and light, we are not the light, but we can lead others to the light. We are not the light, but we must bear witness of the light. Our purpose is to seek and to save that which is lost. We want bonuses all the time and haven't brought anyone to Christ. How well are you doing bearing witness of the light?